

Spencer's Hotel  
Williamsburg  
James City County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-356

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

SPENCER'S HOTEL (COLONIAL HOTEL)  
Williamsburg, James City County, Virginia

Owner: Formerly owned and operated by Colonel Jack Spencer

Date of erection: c. 1840 et seq.

Present condition: Demolished

Description:

The building as it stood before demolition c. 1938 was the result of three periods of building. The earliest would seem to have been the central or southwest unit. This had considerable architectural character and comprised a hipped-roof structure surrounded on two sides (originally perhaps four) by broad two-story piazzas. At the apex of the roof, which was pitched very low, was an octagonal cupola. The porches were double-decked, with a center door on each side flanked by two windows. These, which were all of the same size, had six-over-six-light sash.

Originally there were probably four equal rooms with a central hall. From time to time the plan was modified. To the rear was a long addition with a transverse stair hall and a large sitting room and a dining room beyond. The latter was also used as a ball room. This wing seemed to be of circa 1890-1900. The east wing was small and informal. It had a picturesque bracketed galley at the second-floor line. At one time it contained two shops downstairs and hotel rooms above.

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